

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA  
ALEXANDRIA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

CATAHOULA PARISH SCHOOL BOARD,  
et al.,

Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION

NO. 14430

August 1, 1969  
Bernadine H. Starnes

D E C R E E

The Court, having considered the school desegregation plans filed in this cause by The Catahoula Parish School Board and the Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare, now finds:

1. The school desegregation plan proposed by The Catahoula Parish School Board conforms with the requirements imposed upon the defendants by the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and is designed to, and will, disestablish the defendants' dual school system.

2. The plan proposed and filed by the plaintiff is unworkable and is therefore rejected; now therefore,

It is ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the defendants, their agents, officers, employees and successors and all those in active concert and participation with them be and they are permanently enjoined from discriminating on the basis of race or color in the operation of The Catahoula Parish School System. As set out more particularly in the body of the decree, they shall take affirmative action to disestablish all school segregation and to eliminate the effects of the dual school system:

I.

SPEED OF DESEGREGATION

Commencing with the 1969-70 school year, in accordance with this decree, the schools of Catahoula Parish shall be desegregated as follows:

All first grade children, regardless of race, in Ward Six, Jonesville, Louisiana, are to be assigned to the Jonesville Elementary School.

All eighth grade students, regardless of race, in Ward Six, Jonesville, Louisiana, are to be assigned to Block High School, Jonesville, Louisiana.

All children in the first and second grades, regardless of race, in Wards One and Two, are to be assigned to the Sicily Island Elementary School.

All children, regardless of race, in Ward Five, are to be assigned to the Harrisonburg High School.

All children living in Ward Four, regardless of race, from grades one through eight will be assigned to the Manifest Elementary School.

All faculties of all schools are to be integrated so that five Negro teachers will be assigned to Block High School; two Negro teachers to Enterprise High School; two Negro teachers to Central High School; three Negro teachers to Harrisonburg High School; one Negro teacher to Manifest Elementary School; four Negro teachers to Jonesville Elementary School; three Negro teachers to the Sicily Island High School. White teachers shall be assigned to the Jonesville Consolidated High School and the Martin High School to replace the Negro teachers where vacancies occur as a result of Negro teachers being transferred to white schools. This shall be done according to the number of teachers needed and the availability of white teachers.

II.

Commencing with the 1970-71 school session, the schools of Catahoula Parish shall be fully integrated in the following manner:

The Sicily Island area (Wards One and Two), all children in grades one through six, regardless of race, are to be assigned to the Martin High School, and all children in grades seven through twelve, regardless of race, are to be assigned to the Sicily Island High School, or in the alternative at the option of the school board, Martin High School shall be an all female school for grades one through twelve, regardless of race, and that Sicily Island High School shall be an all male school for grades one through twelve, regardless of race.

In the Jonesville area (Ward Six), all children in grades one through four, regardless of race, shall be assigned to Jonesville Elementary School. All children in grades five through eight, regardless of race, shall be assigned to the Jonesville Consolidated School. All children in grades nine through twelve, regardless of race, shall be assigned to Block High School, or in the alternative at the option of the school board, all children in grades five through twelve, regardless of race, be assigned to Block High School and Jonesville Consolidated School - one being an all female school and the other being an all male school.

The Harrisonburg area (Ward Five), all children in grades one through twelve, regardless of race, be assigned to the Harrisonburg High School.

In the Enterprise area, all children in grades one through twelve, regardless of race, be assigned to the Enterprise High School.

In the Manifest area (Ward Four), all children in grades one through eight, regardless of race, be assigned to the Manifest Elementary School.

In the Central High School area, all children in grades one through twelve, regardless of race, be assigned to the Central High School.

### III.

#### TRANSPORTATION

The transportation system will be integrated for the year 1969-70 session to coincide with and implement the plan submitted for integrating the schools for the 1969-70 school session. For the

1970-71 school session, the transportation system will be completely re-organized and integrated to implement the plan of total desegregation of the school system as outlined for the year 1970-71 school session.

IV.

FACULTIES

The faculties of all schools will be fully integrated for the year 1970-71 school session so as to implement the plan adopted as outlined for total desegregation of the schools for the year 1970-71 school session.

V.

TRANSFERS

(a) Majority to Minority Transfer Policy. The defendants shall permit a student (Negro or white) attending a school in which his race is in the majority to choose to attend another school where space is available and where his race is in a minority.

(b) Transfers for Special Needs. Any student who requires a course of study not offered at the school to which he has been assigned may be permitted, upon his written application at the beginning of any school term or semester, to transfer to another school which offers courses for his special needs.

(c) Transfers to Special Classes or Schools. If the defendants operate and maintain special classes or schools for physically handicapped, mentally retarded, or gifted children, the defendants may assign children to such schools or classes on a basis related to the function of the special class or school. In no event shall such assignments be made on the basis of race or color or in a manner which tends to perpetuate a dual school system based on race or color.

VI.

SERVICES, FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

No student shall be segregated or discriminated against on account of race or color in any service, facility, activity, or program (including transportation, athletics, or other extracurricular activity) that may be conducted or sponsored by the school in which he is enrolled.

A student attending school for the first time on a desegregated basis may not be subject to any disqualification or waiting period for participation in activities and programs, including athletics, which might otherwise apply because he is a transfer or newly assigned student except that such transferees shall be subject to longstanding, non-racially based rules of city, county, or state athletic associations dealing with the eligibility of transfer students for athletic contests. All school use or school-sponsored use of athletic fields, meeting rooms, and all other school related services, facilities, activities, and programs such as commencement exercises and parent-teacher meeting which are open to persons other than enrolled students, shall be open to all persons without regard to race or color. All special educational programs conducted by the defendants shall be conducted without regard to race or color.

#### VII.

##### SCHOOL EQUALIZATION

(a) Inferior Schools. In schools heretofore maintained for Negro students, the defendants shall take prompt steps necessary to provide physical facilities, equipment, courses of instruction, and instructional materials of quality equal to that provided in schools previously maintained for white students. Conditions of overcrowding, as determined by pupil-teacher ratios and pupil-classroom ratios shall, to the extent feasible, be distributed evenly between schools formerly maintained for Negro students and those formerly maintained for white students. If for any reason it is not feasible to improve sufficiently any school formerly maintained for Negro students, where such improvement would otherwise be required by this paragraph, such school shall be closed as soon as possible, and students enrolled in the school shall be reassigned. By October of each year, defendants shall report to the Clerk of the Court pupil-teacher ratios, pupil-classroom ratios, and per-pupil expenditures both as to operating and capital improvement costs, and shall outline the steps to be taken and the time within which they shall accomplish the equalization of such schools.

(b) Remedial Programs. The defendants shall provide remedial education programs which permit students attending or who have previously attended segregated schools to overcome past inadequacies in their education.

VIII.

NEW CONSTRUCTION

The defendants, to the extent consistent with the proper operation of the school system as a whole, shall locate any new school and substantially expand any existing schools with the objective of eradicating the vestiges of the dual system.

IX.

FACULTY AND STAFF

(a) Faculty Employment. Race or color shall not be a factor in the hiring, assignment, reassignment, promotion, demotion, or dismissal of teachers and other professional staff members, including student teachers, except that race may be taken into account for the purpose of counteracting or correcting the effect of the segregated assignment of faculty and staff in the dual system. Teachers, principals, and staff members shall be assigned to schools so that the faculty and staff is not composed exclusively of members of one race. Wherever possible, teachers shall be assigned so that more than one teacher of the minority race (white or Negro) shall be on a desegregated faculty.

(b) Dismissals. Teachers and other professional staff members may not be discriminatorily assigned, dismissed, demoted, or passed over for retention, promotion, or rehiring, on the ground of race or color. In any instance where one or more teachers or other professional staff members are to be displaced as a result of desegregation, no staff vacancy in the school system shall be filled through recruitment from outside the system unless no such displaced staff member is qualified to fill the vacancy. If, as a result of desegregation, there is to be a reduction in the total professional staff of the school system, the qualifications of all staff members in the system shall be evaluated in selecting the staff member to be released without consideration of race or color. A report containing any such proposed dismissals, and

the reasons therefor, shall be filed with the Clerk of the Court, serving copies upon opposing counsel, within five (5) days after such dismissal, demotion, etc., as proposed.

(c) Past Assignments. The defendants shall take steps to assign and reassign teachers and other professional staff members to eliminate the effects of the dual school system.

X.

REPORTS TO THE COURT

The defendants shall serve upon opposing counsel and file with the Clerk of the Court within 15 days after the opening of schools for the fall semester of each year, a report setting forth the following information:

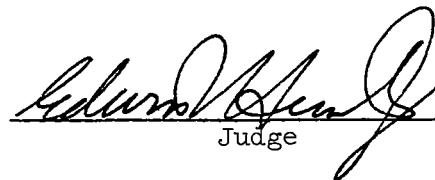
(i) The number of faculty vacancies, by school, that have occurred or been filled by the defendants since the order of this Court or the latest report submitted pursuant to this sub-paragraph. This report shall state the race of the teacher employed to fill each such vacancy and indicate whether such teacher is newly employed or was transferred from within the system. The tabulation of the number of transfers within the system shall indicate the schools from which the transfers were made. The report shall also set forth the number of faculty members of each race assigned to each school for the current year.

(ii) The number of students by race, in each grade of each school.

XI.

The Marshal shall serve each of the defendants herein with a copy of this decree.

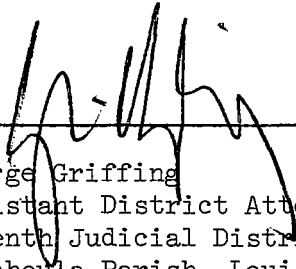
THUS DONE AND SIGNED, in Chambers, in Lake Charles, Louisiana,  
on this the 29<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1969.

  
Judge

C E R T I F I C A T E

I certify that a copy of the above decree was served upon  
James B. Craven III, Attorney, Civil Rights Division, Department of  
Justice, Washington, D. C., prior to filing with this Court.

July 25, 1969.



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George Griffing  
Assistant District Attorney  
Seventh Judicial District  
Catahoula Parish, Louisiana



OFFICE OF  
**THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
CONCORDIA AND CATAHOULA PARISHES

W. C. FALKENHEINER  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
VIDALIA, LOUISIANA

PHONE 336-5272

31 July 1969

HARRISONBURG, LOUISIANA  
PHONE 744-5232

Mr. Alton L. Curtis, Clerk  
United States District Court  
Western District of Louisiana  
P. O. Box 106  
Shreveport, Louisiana 71102

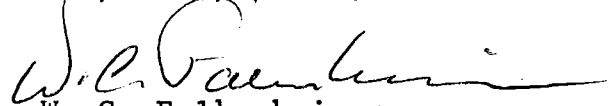
Dear Mr. Curtis:

Re: United States of America v.  
Catahoula Parish School Board, et al  
Civil Action No. 14430 - Alexandria  
Division.

Herewith enclosed is the order of 29 July 1969, signed  
by Judge Edwin F. Hunter, Jr., in the captioned case, to be  
filed in accordance with his instructions.

With very best wishes,

Very truly yours,

  
W. C. Falkenheiner

WCF/ac

enclosure

WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA  
FILED  
AUG 1 1969  
ALTON L. CURTIS, CLERK  
y: 